

Lincroft Elementary School

PTA Meeting: September 24, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

President's Report - Melissa Russo

Welcome Back Lincroft Staff, Parents, and Students. It has been an exciting and nerve-racking first 2 weeks. I want to thank all the families who have reached out in some way to help out this year. Although this year is not starting out the way school usually does, we are all working it out and doing the best we can for our children. We are adapting to Hybrid learning and Hybrid events and we as a Leopard family are making magic happen. I would like to Welcome all of our new families and of course our newest additions to the Leopard family, our Kindergarteners.

My goal with the PTA Board is to make sure we offer as many virtual events during the first few months of school as we can. I want to keep promoting our Leopard family and remind students and families that, no matter near or far, we are all in this together.

We hope you all enjoyed the wonderful visit from Mr. Imbimbo and the Leopard as they cruised through Lincroft, welcoming all of our students "Back to School". We sent home a lot of information in the [PTA packet](#); I hope you all had a chance to go over everything. If you have any questions or concerns in regards to the packet, please let us know. I am sure you noticed that many of our events have a TBD next to them, I am sorry for this but we just don't know how the year will play out. We will begin our Family Fun events adhering to the district guidelines for now and hopefully as the year progresses, we will be able to have some in person events. We are planning some great events for October and November, so keep an eye out for those.

The PTA began the year by cleaning up the side garden to get it ready for something amazing and redoing the front entrance way to the school with new shrubbery and mulch. Thank you to our Garden Committee and Club for such a beautiful job.

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Assistant Principal, Tara Garzone. Mrs. Garzone is also the VP at New Monmouth School and we are so happy to have her join our Leopard Family.

As you know the PTA has a Lincroft School PTA Facebook page. This is not a public page; it is only for current families and staff of Lincroft elementary school. When you ask to join the page, it will automatically give you 2 questions to answer. Please answer the questions or you will not be approved to join. We will be going through the Facebook page this weekend and removing anyone who is not a PTA member or no longer a current family in the school. Please know we do this for the safety of our children. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know. Posts will not be

approved if we feel the question is not appropriate for the Facebook community. I try my best to private message any questions I see, that do not require insight from the entire page.

The PTA will do our best to provide as much information to you as we can, however certain questions or concerns should not come through us or through Facebook. Questions regarding school protocol, problems with chrome books, issues with teachers or staff, etc. should be directed to Mr. Imbimbo, Mrs. Garzone, or the administrative staff.

Principal's Report - Mr. Imbimbo

Welcome back returning #LeopardsDen students and parents! To our new families, we welcome you to our family. Parents, thank you for your support, kindness and generosity over the past few weeks. The current health emergency has reshaped each of our personal and daily lives. It has also reshaped the landscape of education.

Thank you for your continued patience during hybrid instruction. We are learning along with you. Every day we are adjusting and adapting our teaching strategies and learning expectations to meet the needs of our kids. We are consistently perfecting our school and classroom routines.

With each passing day, our staff and students are becoming increasingly confident navigating these new and uncharted waters. I know that some days it may feel like we are rebuilding a ship while at sea, but I could not be more proud. The efforts our staff has put forth to ensure that we are connecting with every child, whether those students are learning in person or remotely, has been incredible. The investment put into building relationships with our students (and families), especially during our current state, will empower our students to be socially, emotionally, and academically available to learn each day.

We are excited for this adventure! We are ready for the challenge! We are committed to learning, growing and improving each day and we couldn't think of a better community to be a part of than Lincroft! Here's to a year like no other. Here's to '20-21!

-Dan Imbimbo
Principal, Lincroft Elementary School

Vice Principal Message - Mrs. Garzone

I would like to say how amazing everyone - the staff, students, and community - have been through the entire process of reopening our school safely. Seeing how engaged the students have been in person and virtually is a true indication of how hard our staff members work. I'm truly excited to be a part of the Lincroft Family and look forward to a great year ahead!

Thank you again.

Mrs. Garzone
VP Lincroft School

Treasurer's Report – Katharine Cogan

The Lincroft PTA had an available cash balance of \$33,680.88 at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. We have historically retained \$15,000 of our cash balance as working capital. After reducing the available cash balance by the working capital, the remaining balance of \$18,680.88 was our starting point for the 2020-2021 school year budget. The proposed budget is available for viewing on the Lincroft PTA website at <https://lincroftpta.org/resources>.

Please feel free to contact me at lincroftptatreasurer@gmail.com if you have any questions about the budget. This budget will be considered approved on September 30th at 8:00pm. You must be a PTA member to vote on the budget.

Fundraising

To build our budget for this school year, we first determined fundraising activities we would be able to accomplish while also staying in compliance with the new health and safety guidelines.

As our fundraising opportunities have been significantly reduced this year, we greatly appreciate your ongoing participation in these events!

The fundraisers currently running are:

- Amazon Smile & Box Tops for Education programs (instructions for both were included in the PTA back to school information packet and are also available on the Lincroft PTA website),
- Sale of School Toolboxes, Brick Pavers & Spirit Wear,
- and the PTA membership drive.

We will be accepting PTA membership renewals/sign-ups through September 30th. We have lowered the membership price to \$15 for this year. We encourage everyone to join the PTA in order to stay informed about school happenings through our weekly newsletters and Facebook page and to be able to participate in school events when they start up again.

>> Renew today at www.lincroftpta.org/join. <<

The online Spirit wear store will be open until October 15th. The link is on the Lincroft PTA website - <https://spiritwearexpress.tuosystems.com/stores/lincroft>. There are so many new and great items! Check it out soon and show off your Leopard pride!

Family Fun and other school events

The next step of our budgeting process was to plan for monthly family fun activities, beautification committee and teacher appreciation gifts and events. We also included placeholder amounts for Fun Day, assemblies, transportation for class trips, etc. in the hope that these activities will be able to start up again this school year.

Administrative expenses

The Lincroft PTA incurs certain re-occurring administrative expenses that must be budgeted for each year. These include accounting and tax preparation services, insurance expense and software renewal fees.

Capital Expenses

The Lincroft PTA has set aside \$4,000 for capital expenses for this school year. We are currently working to determine how these funds can best be used to facilitate outdoor mask and snack breaks.

Our two-year capital expense plan consists of fundraising enough money to resurface and improve the blacktop on the playground, repair the broken basketball net and install sensory walls in the school.

VP Programming - Danielle Pratt and Tammy Jones

Understanding our current situation with Covid-19 there will be no activities allowed on school grounds at this time. We are considering the following family fun nights for the month of October:

Lincroft Leopard Spookiest House Decorating Contest. There will be a \$5.00 entry fee and a prize for the winner with all proceeds going to the PTA.

Virtual Monster Mash. All students will dress up in their costumes and we will have a Halloween themed dance party via Zoom.

Spirit Wear: Our School Store is OPEN!! The store is open from now until October 15th. It is online only and the link has been sent through the e-blast and on FB. [Spirit Wear Link](#)

Box Tops: There was a flyer in the PTA Packet in regards to Box Tops. We will not be collecting any Box Tops as of right now. Please use the app on your phone to redeem your box tops.

The PTA purchased "Welcome Back" gifts and signs for our entire Lincroft Staff. We know our staff can do "VIRTUALLY ANYTHING". 😊

We'd also like to incorporate a mum sale for the school.

Feel free to reach out to us for any questions and/or input.

Fundraising

Due to the circumstances of the year, we will not be able to have our typical fundraisers for the year. We will be sending out information in the next few weeks, giving families an opportunity to make either a monetary donation or sponsor an item we are looking to add to our school. These donations will help us maintain the activities, events, and student enrichment programs we value so much in our school. If you would like to donate to the PTA, you will have an opportunity to do so soon in our Memberhub store. Look for the link on PTA FB page, Weekly Newsletter and PTA website.

Corresponding Secretary - Martina Garland

Garden Committee and Club

In early September several families participated in school front beautification. It was an enjoyable experience for parents as well as children to work together on something the whole school community can enjoy!

In early October we will get together again and bring the fall theme to the front of the school. Pumpkins, cornstalks etc. 🥕🍁

Memberhub

The deadline to purchase your PTA membership for 2020/2021 school year is September 30th. Please renew/join today at www.lincroftpta.org/join. If you don't purchase/renew your membership by 9/30, you will be removed from Memberhub as well as our FB page. If you have any questions about Memberhub, please contact lincroftpta@gmail.com.

PTA Memberships

We encourage all staff and parents to join the PTA. If you want to be able to vote on PTA decisions, be a class parent, chair a position, or volunteer for any events we may have you must be a PTA member. This includes participating in the 5th grade event and Fun Day.

Recording Secretary - Coralee Dixon

Custodian Day

Custodian Day is next Friday, October 2nd. We will do something special for our custodians from the PTA. Students & parents are very welcome to send in cards or pictures for the custodians to support them and show their appreciation. They are working very hard this year to keep our school clean and safe! We encourage you to mention Custodian Day to your child, especially if they are in Cohort B, so they can say

"Happy Custodian Day" to any custodial staff they might see. Students can drop off their cards in the main office or give them to their teachers for distribution to the custodians.

PTA Website

Over the summer we did a major update on the PTA website (www.lincroftpta.org), including the addition of a New Families page. Our goal is for the site to be a current, active source of information for existing and incoming members of our community. Please visit lincroftpta.org throughout the year for helpful information and important links. We will continue updating the site on a regular basis, and welcome your suggestions for ways we can continue to improve it!

Pandemic Response Team

Coralee Dixon, Katharine Cogan, Melissa Russo are the PTA reps on the Pandemic Response Team. We'll keep our community updated and informed as new information emerges from these meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget

The New Budget is available on the PTA website at <https://lincroftpta.org/resources> for you to view. Please look at it. If you have any issues or concerns, please reach out to me directly by September 30th 8:00 or this budget will be approved. Remember you have to be a Lincroft PTA Member to vote.

2019-2020 Yearbooks

We have been informed that our yearbooks from last year are out of production and should be shipping to us soon. We will be in contact with specifics on how and when to pick them up.

Class Parents

This responsibility has changed this year. In the past you had assisted and handled parties/events. This year you will be a contact for the staff and PTA information. Information will be blasted out to you and you will need to communicate it to your class. As of now there will be no parties, class trips, or events. This position is more of a communication line to parents. If things change throughout the year, we will reach out and modify.

We will also need your help collecting photos from each class for the yearbook this year. Our Yearbook photographer will not be able to get into school to take all of the amazing photos she usually can. So, we all must help gather as many photos as we can to fill the yearbook. More information on this will follow.

You will also be collecting \$10.00 per student. These funds will go towards class shirts and teacher gifts for the year.

Safe Schools Certification

The Safe School Certification is not necessary at this point because no parents are permitted in the school without clearance from Mr. Imbimbo. If parents are permitted back in the building at some point, we will have the link up to complete Safe Schools.

5th Grade Parents - Holly Rohlf Committee Chair

Please join the 5th grade Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/908223579693185/. This is where you will be provided updates and discussions regarding our 5th grade.

We will also be collecting your 5th graders baby pictures. Please put 2 photos in an envelope labeled 5th Grade Baby photos and send to school. We usually ask for a baby photo and a childhood photo. If your child is virtual, there is a green bin out front of the school where you can drop these envelopes off.

PTA Items

There is a Green PTA Bin in front of the school to place your forms or anything else PTA related in. Please make sure you have everything labeled when you place it in.

Remember, we as a PTA are here to help in any way we can. You can reach out to us at lincroftpta@gmail.com if you need anything and if we do not have the answer, we will direct you to the right person who does. We are looking forward to an amazing year for our students, staff, and families.

Have a wonderful night,

Melissa Russo

Lincroft Elementary School PTA President